

**McMaster Association of Part-Time Students
Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
Friday, August 18, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.
57 West 1st Street, Hamilton**

PRESENT Dave Moore (chair), Alex Alvarez, Carole Armstrong, Denise Ellis, Min-Ju Evans, Vicki Hartley, Rose O'Connor, David Rennie, Nathan Shaw, Sean Spratt, George Zrinscak

REGRETS Anna Marinelli

ABSENT Noor Nizam, Gisela Oliveira, Ken Seville, Eric Siu

STAFF Sam Minniti (executive director)

CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING

A quorum of directors being present, the chair called the meeting to order.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL COPY OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes of June 27, 2006
- President's Report, August 16, 2006
- Part-Time Student Organization Survey (draft – August 18, 2006)
- Joint letter by 11 university presidents to *Maclean's* magazine, August 14, 2006
- Year-To-Date Financial Statement (to June 30, 2006)
- Executive Director Report, August 18, 2006

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Ellis, seconded by Armstrong that the agenda be adopted as circulated. **Carried.**

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Adoption of the minutes was deferred to later in the meeting.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Moore presented his written report (copy annexed to the master copy of the minutes).

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Minniti presented his written report (copy annexed to the master copy of the minutes).

Rennie asked how the University would reconcile the grave budgetary situation it faces with the millions of dollars in philanthropic gifts the institution has been receiving. Minniti noted that such gifts are designated to specific projects and not available to support general operating costs.

Zrinscak asked how the parking rates compare with those of other institutions. Moore observed that schools such as Western and Toronto aren't valid comparators, but Laurier, Waterloo, and Guelph would be. The University believes the fees it charges are competitive.

Shaw asked at what point the University will realize that it can't afford continued growth at this rate. It was noted that some people believe the University has already passed that point; in a year when the University is grappling with a significant structural deficit, the new Athletics Centre will open adding more than \$1 million to the campus' annual operating costs.

Members asked about the nature and appropriateness of the referrals being sent to MAPS. Minniti commented that while MAPS exists to provide advocacy and services for its members, it is not MAPS' role to provide academic counselling. MAPS employees are not trained for this and there is a question of liability. More importantly, this is a responsibility of the University.

5. YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A year-to-date financial statement, to June 30, 2006, was presented (copy annexed to the master copy of the minutes). Moore commented that MAPS has received an advance (\$50,000) on its fall fee payment at the initiative of the University.

6. MAPS BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- **Awards Committee** – Rennie (chair), Ellis, Hartley, and Zrinscak. Information packages will be ready early in the week and the Committee will meet on Thursday, August 24 at 5:30 to review fall term bursary applications.
- **External Committee** – Marinelli (chair), others tbd
- **Finance Committee** – Spratt (chair), Ellis, and Zrinscak.
- **Internal Committee** – Rennie (chair), others tbd
- **Nominating Committee** – Siu, two others tbd

7. MAPS-MSU MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERABILITY

From late 2005 through August 2006, MAPS has been the lead for developing options and preparing supporting documents to move the transferability file forward. Considerable staff and executive time has been devoted to this end.

In March 2006, MAPS and the MSU each approved a draft transferability agreement in principle, subject to legal review (now complete). The draft included provisions to address a scenario where the University did not agree to act as agent (for processing fee transfers).

The current MSU president has indicated verbally to Minniti that the MSU remains committed to implementing two-way transferability as envisioned in the draft agreement, but it is not prepared to do so at this time. The MSU wants to continue discussions with Dr. Hall in the hope that University departments (Business Office, Student Financial Aid & Scholarships) will administer the related financial adjustments when an agreement is implemented.

Dr. Hall has suggested that undergraduate degree students with disabilities be given a one-time opportunity to select their student government of choice (MAPS or MSU). He proposes this option be provided even if the student's disability does not reduce the course load the student is capable of undertaking. He further noted that this approach would require administrative processes that could take the University until September 2007 to put into place. Dr. Hall's suggestion could be incorporated into the draft MAPS-MSU agreement in place of the current disability provisions, subject to the agreement of MAPS and the MSU.

Last week, the MSU proposed that one student be permitted to transfer in 2006-07 (from MAPS to MSU), and that other students seeking to transfer (either way) be told that transferability is the subject of ongoing discussions with the University. Permitting one student to transfer (who would be eligible under the draft agreement) but not anyone else would open both MAPS and the MSU to criticism and potentially another complaint under the University's Anti-Discrimination Policy. The last complaint (November 2005-June 2006) took up considerable executive and staff time; it also resulted in legal costs. At least one other student with disabilities is known to be anticipating a transfer protocol in September 2006.

The MAPS board noted that it is within the MSU's prerogative to grant full MSU membership to any individual under any terms, subject to the MSU's own constitutional and administrative requirements. In the absence of a transfer agreement, such a decision involving a member of MAPS would not include transfer of fees and the student would remain a full member of MAPS concurrent to being a member of the MSU. Unilateral action by the Students Union would put the MSU at risk of criticism and potentially a complaint under the Anti-Discrimination Policy.

The consensus of the MAPS board was that no agreement be made that would place MAPS at risk of a discrimination complaint. Further, the board directed that:

1. MAPS not agree to transferability for one or more individuals in place of a comprehensive two-way transferability agreement.
2. MAPS seek to conclude a transferability agreement with the MSU, to be effective September 1, 2006.
3. MAPS and the MSU process fee transfers for 2006-07 while discussions are pursued with the University to have the business office assume this function for 2007-08 and subsequent years.
4. If the MSU decides not to pursue transferability at this time, MAPS seek MSU agreement on the text of a joint statement explaining the MSU's decision.

8. MAPS MEMBERSHIP TERM

The board discussed the nature of the term of MAPS membership. Two options were discussed:

1. Twelve months from the beginning of the academic session in which fees are paid (i.e. a rolling clock).
2. A fixed membership year beginning September 1.

The board noted the provision in MAPS' bylaws for associate membership under which a former MAPS member may seek full voting and participation rights in the Association as an Associate Member for up to three years after last being a Full Member.

Motion: Moved by Moore, seconded by O'Connor to adopt a standing resolution (with existing resolutions renumbered as required) as follows:

Standing Resolution #1 – Membership Term

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the membership year be September 1 to August 31.

Motion Carried.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

On behalf of the board, Moore thanked Minniti for hosting the social/meeting.

10. TIME OF NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.